



NEWS RELEASE  
*Office of the  
United States Attorney  
for the  
District of Nebraska*  
**Joe W. Stecher**

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June 19, 2009

United States Attorney Joe Stecher and the Lincoln Police Department and the Lancaster County Sheriff's Department announce the following information for the attention of the media:

**Event Triggering this Release:** On June 18, 2009, a Lincoln man was sentenced to 10 years (120 months) in prison for his role in a conspiracy to distribute cocaine base, also known as crack cocaine in the Lincoln area. John H. Sutton was held responsible for the distribution of at least 50 grams (approximately 1 ¾ ounces) but less than 150 grams (approximately 5 ⅓ ounces) of cocaine base, also known as crack cocaine, between January of 2005 and September of 2008. Following the prison term, Sutton will serve five years on supervised release. He was also ordered to pay a \$100 special assessment.

**Name of Defendant:** John Henry Sutton

**AKA:** Juan, J., Black

**Age:** 23

**City of residence:** Lincoln

**Crime(s) Charged and Potential Penalty** (A CHARGE is merely an accusation and every defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty): Conspiracy to distribute and possess with the intent to distribute 50 grams or more of a mixture or substance containing a detectable amount of cocaine base, also known as crack cocaine, a Schedule II controlled substance, in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Section 846. The possible penalty is not less than 10 years nor more than life imprisonment and a fine of up to \$4,000,000. Following any prison term, there would be a term of supervised release of not less than five years. There is also a \$100 special assessment

**Specific Location of Alleged Crime:** Lincoln

**Location of Arrest:** Lincoln

**Alleged Dollar Loss/Type and Quantity of Drug:** at least 50 grams (approximately 1 3/4 ounces) but less than 150 grams (approximately 5 1/3 ounces) of a mixture or substance containing methamphetamine.

**Others Charged in Same Scheme:** John D. Sutton, Julius Sutton, and Melody Winters. Winters is scheduled to enter a guilty plea later this month. John D. Sutton and Julius Sutton have been arrested in Indiana and are awaiting transfer to the District of Nebraska for further proceedings.

**Relevant Dates:**

**Date of Alleged Crime:** Between on or about January 1, 2005, and on or about September 30, 2008

**Federal Arrest Date:** December 29, 2008

**Date Complaint Issued:**

**Indictment Returned Date:** December 17, 2008

**Initial Appearance Date:** December 30, 2008

**Plea or Trial and Date(s):** Pled guilty on March 20, 2009

**Sentencing Date:** June 18, 2009

**Next Court Hearing Type and Date:** none

**Assigned Magistrate Judge:** The Honorable David L. Piester

**Held without Bond, or Released from Custody:** Sutton was held without bond from December 29, 2008, to February 23, 2009, and from March 2, 2009, to present

**In Continuous Custody Since:** March 2, 2009

**Assigned District Court Judge:** The Honorable Richard G. Kopf

**Initials of Assigned AUSA/Preparer of THIS Release:** SEF